

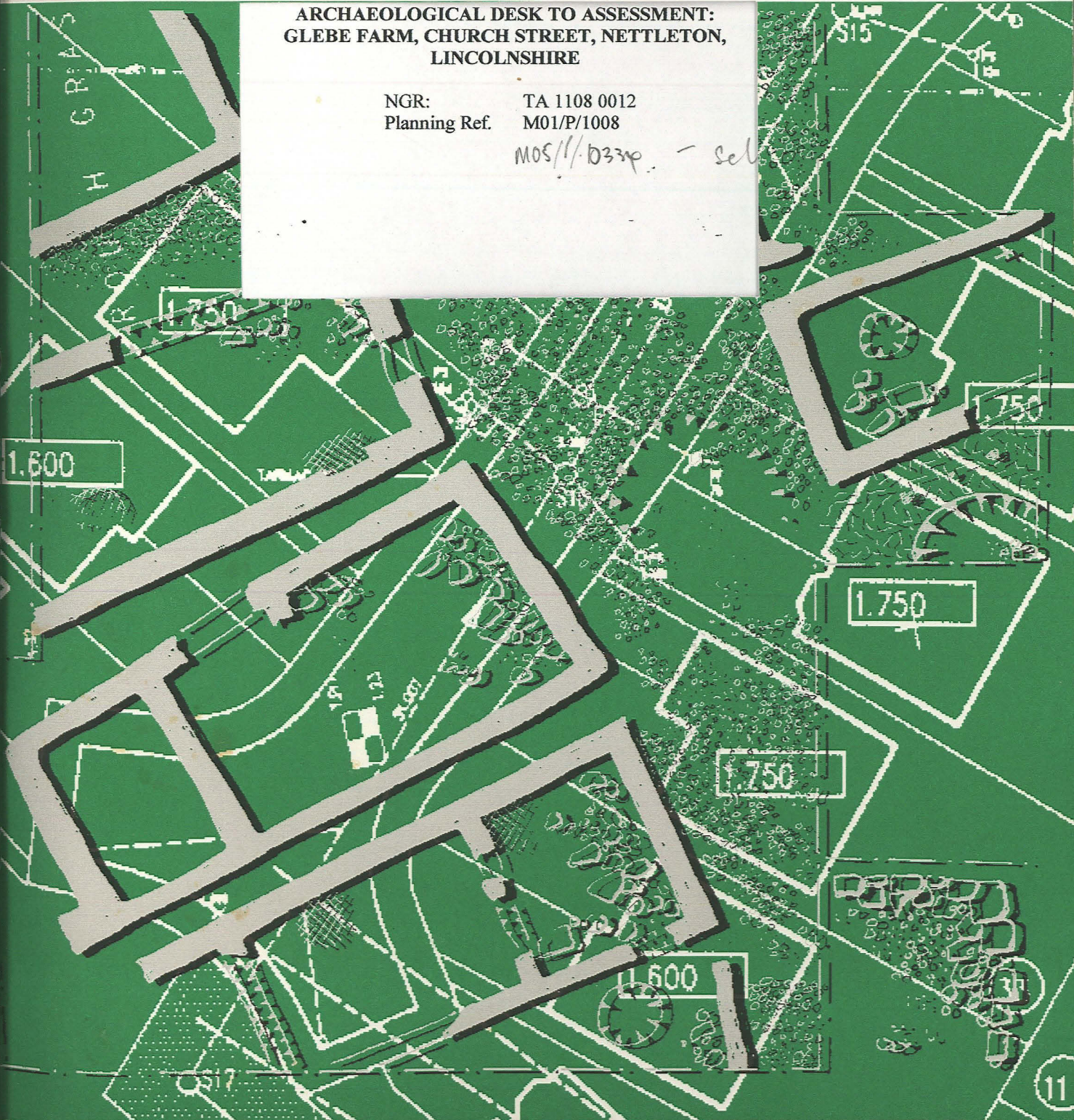
PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK TO ASSESSMENT:
GLEBE FARM, CHURCH STREET, NETTLETON,
LINCOLNSHIRE

NGR: TA 1108 0012
Planning Ref. M01/P/1008

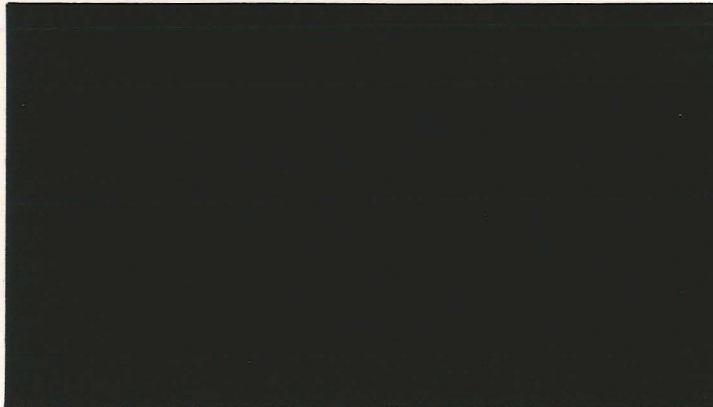
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MOS/1/0330 - scheme of works

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March 2002

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Summary

- *This archaeological assessment has been prepared for the J. H. G. Planning Consultancy on behalf of G. T. Hair and Partners, in respect of a proposed residential development at Glebe Farm, Church Street, Nettleton, Lincolnshire.*
- *It has been prepared to fulfil a planning requirement issued by West Lindsey District Council, and will form the basis for a decision-making process that will seek to address the interests of the developer, while ensuring, at the same time, that archaeological resources, or potential archaeological resources are not needlessly put at risk from development of the site.*
- *The results of this investigation suggest that the archaeological potential of the site is **moderately high**. This potential is highest for the medieval period, as indicated by extant earthwork remains and other evidence that is cited within this report.*
- *It is suggested that a limited programme of non-intrusive and intrusive fieldwork could be applied to establish the exact date, significance and extent of archaeological remains that are believed to fall within the proposed development area.*

1.0 Introduction

This desk-based study was commissioned by the J. H. G. Planning Consultancy on behalf of G. T. Hair & Partners. Its purpose is to assess the overall archaeological potential of a planned development site at Glebe Farm, Church Street, Nettleton, and to assess the potential impact of the intended development on the archaeological record. The report will assist West Lindsey District Council with the decision-making process in relation to archaeological matters, and will likewise inform the client of any archaeological constraints which may be of relevance to the application.

2.0 Location and Description

Nettleton is a village on the north end of the A46, directly south-west of the small town of Caistor, and approximately 18 km south-west of Grimsby. Development does not extend far along the A46 itself, but is loosely distributed along several smaller roads crossing and joining it, including the B1205 and the minor roads to Rothwell and Normanby le Wold.

Glebe Farm is located in the centre of the village on the south side of Church Road, opposite the church: its central National Grid reference is TA 1108 0012. The farm buildings front directly on to Church Road; the rear of the development area, bordered by the Nettleton Beck, opens on to agricultural land (see location map, fig. 1).

3.0 Geology and Topography

The drift geology of the area is principally blown sand, with a small area of alluvium at the south-east end of the village. The underlying bedrock is Elsham Sandstone (BGS 1982).

Nettleton lies on the east edge of the Vale of Ancholme, on the spring line between the flat, artificially drained, Vale itself and the scarp face of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Its height above sea level is approximately 50m OD, with higher ground to the south and east. The scarp face of the Wolds is unstable and prone to landslips and soil creep: part of the village was destroyed by landslips in the late 17th century, and this area remains largely undeveloped (Everson *et al*, 1991).

4.0 Planning background

Planning consent is sought from West Lindsey District Council for the construction of a residential development (reference MO1/P/1008) at Glebe Farm (for proposed development arrangements, see Fig. 6). Prior to the determination of this application, the District Council has requested the undertaking of a detailed archaeological assessment to determine the overall archaeological potential of the site, without the use of intrusive techniques. This approach is consistent with the advice set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, 1990.

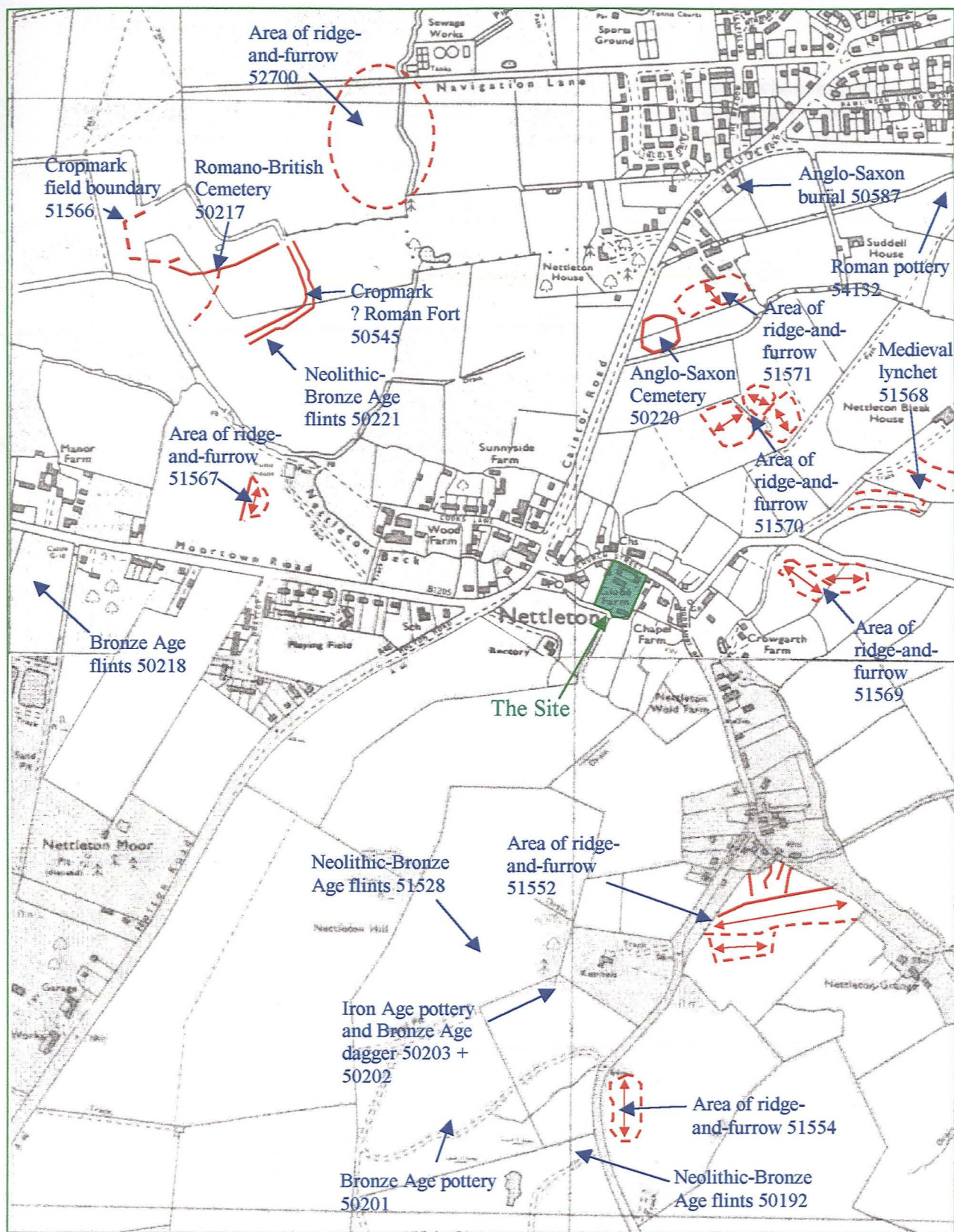


Fig. 1: Location plan of site, showing positions of relevant entries in the Sites and Monuments Record (buildings, undated entries and medieval pottery scatters not shown). Scale 1:10,000. (OS copyright license no. AL 515 21 A 0001)

5.0 Objectives and methods

The purpose of this report is to identify and assess the likelihood of archaeological remains which may be sensitive to construction works associated with the proposed development, and, if necessary, to suggest further methods by which the site may be evaluated in advance of such construction works.

The report is based on information derived from a variety of sources: -

The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for Lincolnshire

Records held at the Lincolnshire Archives Office

Aerial photographs held by the National Monuments Record (NMR)/English Heritage

Published and unpublished accounts, including reports of previous archaeological work in the area

A site visit, carried out on 8th March 2002, to assess the situation and condition of the site.

6.0 General archaeological and historical background

The Lincolnshire Wolds were extensively settled in prehistory, and there is a moderate amount of prehistoric activity in the wider area of Nettleton. Several crop-marks, believed to be ploughed-out barrows, are outside the immediate area of the development site, as is the Nettleton Top quarry, where Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery, flint (from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age periods) and a Bronze Age cremation were found in 1986-87. This evidence suggests the presence of a settlement in the vicinity of Nettleton Top, although probably not on the Top itself, as no structures were found when the site was investigated (Field and Leahy, 1993). Within approximately 1 km of Glebe Farm, the Sites and Monuments Record references seven finds of prehistoric material: three separate findings of Neolithic to Bronze Age flints and one of Bronze Age flints, a scatter of Bronze Age pottery, a sherd of Iron Age pottery, and a late Bronze Age dagger (see fig. 1 for location of recorded finds).

Nettleton is very close to Caistor, a former Roman town (whose name is derived from the Latin *castra* – military camp or fort). Caistor was a walled town, seven to eight acres in size: parts of the defensive wall footings and related features have been investigated, but no definite remains of buildings within the enclosed area have yet been identified. The presence of defences implies that Caistor had an important function in the district, possibly as both an administrative and a market centre. Two pottery kilns were in production in the late 3rd-4th century, west of Caistor on Navigation Lane, approximately 1 km north of Nettleton (Whitwell, 1992).

Roman pottery has also been found in fields on the south edge of Caistor, approximately 1 km north-east of Nettleton. A square or rectangular crop-mark about ½ km north-west of Nettleton has been interpreted as a Roman fort or camp, but no

investigation has taken place here, and it has also been interpreted as a medieval enclosure. A Romano-British cremation cemetery was found close to the north edge of this feature in the 19th century: the cinerary urns are believed to have dated from the 4th century, and may represent part of the cemetery of Caistor Roman town, as it was not standard Roman practice to bury their dead within town walls, and no Roman graves have ever been found within Caistor itself.

As well as prehistoric material, the 1986-87 excavation at Nettleton Top revealed a small early Anglo-Saxon settlement, with sunken-floored buildings (*Grubenhäuser*), fire-pits, and domestic refuse: the presence of a number of loom-weights, showing that weaving was carried out on the site, indicates a sedentary, rather than a transitory, settlement. A gilded great square-headed brooch found on the excavation, together with the pottery remains, indicate that the site was occupied from the 6th to the 7th century (Field and Leahy, 1993).

The Anglo-Saxon cemetery found circa 1855 on the east side of Caistor Road, midway between Nettleton and Caistor, dated to the 5th-6th century, contained a 5th century bronze hanging-bowl in one of the graves (although pagan post-Roman burials are not easy to date, and the bowl was not necessarily new when buried (Sawyer, 1998)). It has been suggested that an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery so close to a Roman town may indicate that the Saxon settlers were *foederati*, receiving land from the Roman administration in return for military service (Whitwell, 1992). A single Anglo-Saxon inhumation burial found in a garden on the east side of Nettleton Road, on the south edge of Caistor, in 1972 may be connected with this cemetery. The only other local reference held by the SMR is a fragment of an Anglo-Saxon small-long brooch, which was found, together with a single potsherd, in a field approximately ½ km east of Nettleton Wold Farm (see fig. 1).

There is no evidence for the development of the settlement of Nettleton in the later Migration Period, but it was clearly a wealthy and thriving village at the time of the Domesday audit, with manors held by four major landowners. The place-name 'Nettleton' first appears in Domesday Book as *Neteltone*, derived from the Old English *netel(e)*, nettle, and *tūn*, farmstead or village. The presence of a heavy growth of nettles is still recognised as a sign of recently inhabited or disturbed ground, indicating that *Neteltone* may have occupied the site of an abandoned earlier settlement (Cameron, 1998).

The entries in Domesday Book referring to Nettleton are as follows:

Land of the Bishop of Bayeux

In Nettleton Ketilbjorn and Gamall had 1 carucate and 6 bovates of land taxable. Land for 3½ ploughs. Now Erneis and Wadard, the Bishop's men, have 2 ploughs there. 13 villagers and 5 smallholders with 1 plough and 2 oxen. 2 mills, 3s; meadow, 60 acres. Value before 1066, 60s; now £4.

In North Thoresby and Audby there is a jurisdiction (soca) of this manor; 2 bovates of land taxable. 4 villagers. 3 salt-houses; meadow, 20 acres.

Land of Roger of Poitou

In Nettleton Grimketill had 5 bovates of land taxable. Land for 2 ploughs. Blancard, Roger's man, has 5 villagers, 4 smallholders and 1 freeman with 1 plough; and 2 mills, 10s; meadow, 40 acres. Value before 1066, 30s; now 40s. Exactions 10s.

Land of Erneis of Buron

In Nettleton Gamall has 5 bovates of land taxable. Land for 15 oxen. 3 villagers and 3 smallholders with 2 oxen in a plough. 1 mill, 12d; meadow, 20 acres. Value before 1066 and now: 20s.

Land of Durand Malet

In Nettleton Rothulfr had 14 bovates of land taxable. Land for 5 ploughs. Two of Durand's men have 2 ploughs and 10 villagers, and 5 smallholders with 1 plough; and 3 mills, 5s; a church; meadow, 60 acres; underwood, 60 acres. Value before 1066 and now: £4.

Land of Svartbrandr and other thanes

In Nettleton Leofgifu (had) 5 bovates of land taxable. Land for 2 ploughs. She has ½ plough there herself. 2 villagers, 1 smallholder and 1 freeman with ½ plough. 1 mill, 12d; meadow, 20 acres. Value before 1066, 20s; now 5s.

(The 'Audby' mentioned as *soca* of Nettleton is a deserted village: its site is now occupied by Autby Farm in North Thoresby parish.)

The total of 9 mills operational in Nettleton parish and its jurisdiction indicates a very large area of land under cereal cultivation, requiring a large population of agricultural labourers and creating considerable wealth (the sums of money entered after the mills do not represent the value of the mill buildings, but the annual income generated by milling). The three salt-houses in North Thoresby *soca* would also have been a significant source of wealth, as salt in the Middle Ages was so valuable that it could be used as currency (Rulkin, 1975). North Thoresby is situated on the east side of the Wolds, further inland than most other medieval salt-making sites known in the area (e.g. near Marshchapel, Grainthorpe and Saltfleet), but still within reach of the tidal creeks from which the salt was obtained (Kirkham, 1975).

Traces of the medieval field system can be seen in many places within 1 km of Nettleton: the SMR records seven areas of ridge-and-furrow (formed by ploughing in medieval strip-fields), three lynchets (an earth bank caused by soil creep at the edge of a field), and a cropmark showing a possible medieval field boundary (see fig. 1). The field system of Nettleton parish was centred exclusively on Nettleton village: the subordinate hamlets of Hardwick, Wykeham and Draycote (all now deserted) seem never to have had individual field systems. Nettleton itself is a shrunken village: the medieval ridge-and-furrow survives in so many places due to a fall in village population, causing less land to be cultivated. Village shrinkage is usually ascribed to the sharp drop in population caused by the Black Death, or to a change in land use from arable farming to sheep pasture, requiring a much lower population of agricultural workers, but in Nettleton it was at least partly caused by landslips in the late 17th century, which destroyed some 25 houses and 'garths' between the village core and the main Wold's scarp to the south – this area can be seen as still largely

empty on the 1794 enclosure map (Fig. 4), and remains little developed (Everson *et al.* 1991).

The land of Nettleton Grange, to the south-east of the village, belonged to the estate of Sixhills Priory, a wealthy Gilbertine priory with a number of granges in its local area, where wool was produced for export. The priory was dissolved in 1538, but the grange lands (granted, with the priory, to Sir Thomas Heneage) appear on the 1794 enclosure map as three separate large fields outside the village enclosures (Everson *et al.* 1991).

Only the Saxo-Norman tower, now with a 15th century belfry, remains of the church that is mentioned in Domesday Book: the main body of the church was rebuilt in 1805, and again in 1874. A decorated stone panel from the 12th century, now inlaid in the north chancel wall, indicates that earlier alterations had been made, and so implies a community with sufficient surplus wealth to follow architectural fashion in at least part of its church (only a chronically impoverished community retains its church fabric unchanged over several centuries) (Pevsner 1995).

Pevsner also records Glebe Farm House itself as being the remnant of a 16th century timber-framed hall, encased in brick in the 18th century (Pevsner 1995): this house stood until 1988, and can be seen in the aerial photograph from 1980 (fig. 3).

Manor Farm, approximately ½ km west of Nettleton village, is recorded by the SMR as showing 'slight but extensive' earthworks around it, particularly to the east. These coincide with an area of old enclosure on the 1794 enclosure map, and so are probably post-medieval field boundaries.

7.0 Archaeological potential

Information relating more specifically to the area of proposed development was collated from a variety of sources, and is detailed below.

7.1 Cartographic information

A priority aerial photograph cover search was requested from the English Heritage National Monuments Record; archive details of the photographs found are tabulated below.

NGR Index Number	Accession Number	Frame	Date Flown	6 Fig NGR
TA1000/2	PLE 2920	23	24 Jul 1976	TA105005
TF1199/1	DNR 363	13	26 Jul 1971	TF117999

Sortie Number	Library Number	NGR Start	NGR End	Date Flown
106G/UK/515	4966	TF117991	TA112012	15 Jul 1945

Only one of the aerial photographs found, taken in 1945, clearly shows the planned development area (Fig. 2). It shows Nettleton from the north: Glebe Farm can be seen



Fig. 2

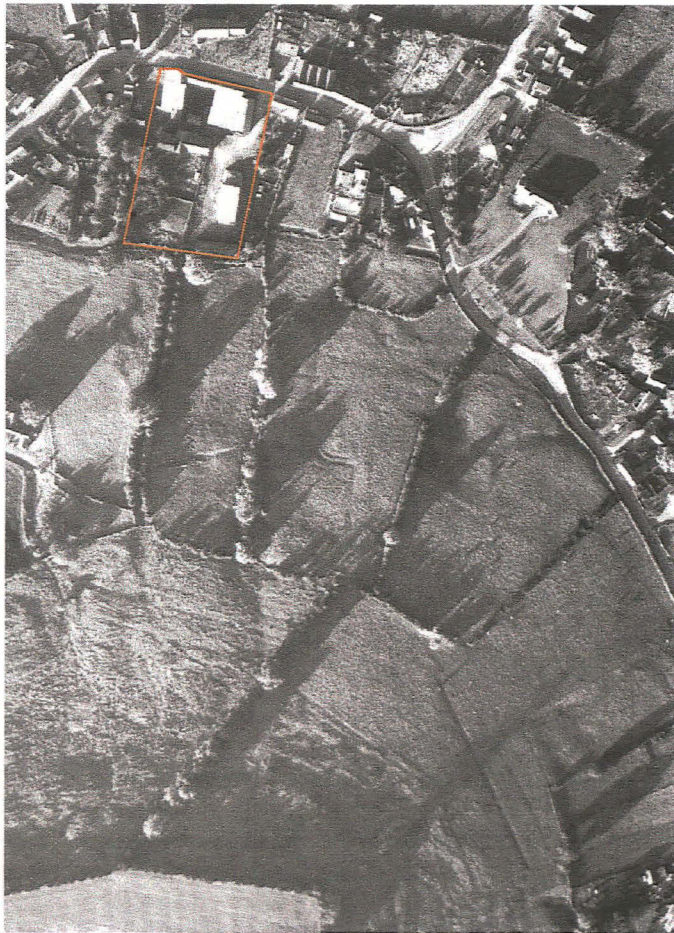


Fig. 2 (above): Aerial photograph from 1945. Glebe Farm is outlined in red on the south side of Church Street. (Reference 106G/UK/515, Frame No. 2088, dated 15.7. 1945).

Fig. 3 (left): Close-up aerial photograph from 1980. Glebe Farm is again outlined in red: the outlines of the abandoned buildings can be seen in the fields to the south as lines of shadow. (Everson, Taylor & Dunn, 1991).

Fig. 3



Figure 4: Extract from 1794 Enclosure Plan of the Parish of Nettleton

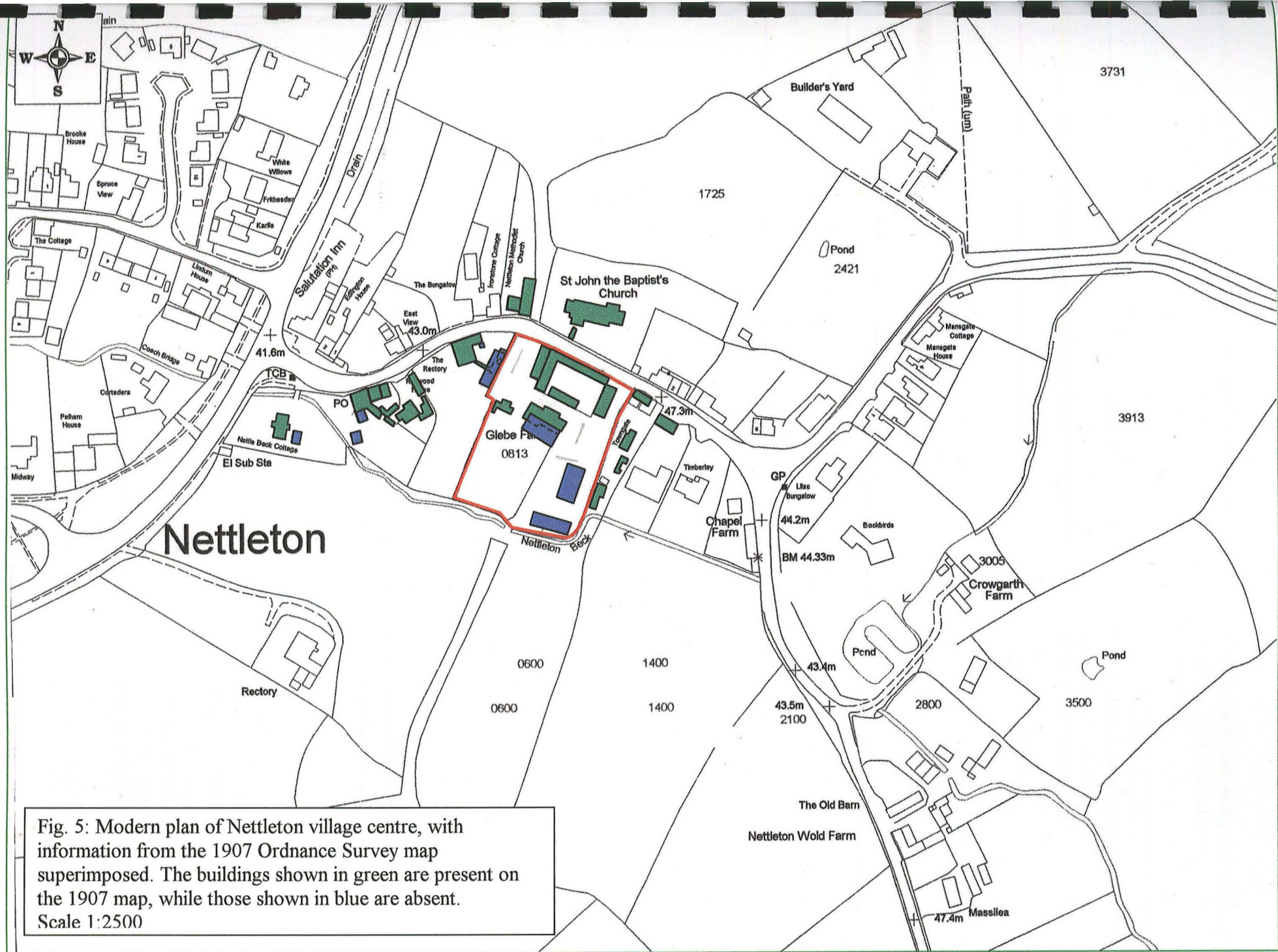


Fig. 5: Modern plan of Nettleton village centre, with information from the 1907 Ordnance Survey map superimposed. The buildings shown in green are present on the 1907 map, while those shown in blue are absent. Scale 1:2500

in the centre of the village (outlined in red). The fields south of Glebe Farm and along the entire south side of Church Street contain traces of earthworks, indicating the positions of the buildings that stood there prior to the 17th century landslips.

The close-up aerial photograph (Fig. 3) is reproduced from *Change and Continuity: Rural Settlement in North-West Lincolnshire* (Everson, Taylor and Dunn 1991), and was taken on 9th October 1980. Nettleton parish church can be seen at the top edge of the photograph: the complex of larger buildings facing it is Glebe Farm (outlined in red). The outlines of the pre-17th century house plots in the fields behind Glebe Farm are clearly visible as patterns of shadows in the low sunlight; the N-S running hollow-way, with its double line of hawthorn trees, can also be seen.

The following cartographic sources at the Lincolnshire Archives Office were consulted:

Enclosure Map of 1794, 1:10,000

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition of 1907, sheet 28/16, 1:2500

Nettleton was enclosed over the period of 1791-1795. In order to save time, Lord Eardley had the parish surveyed at his own expense before the commissioners arrived, but the other land proprietors suspected his motives, and the commissioners appointed an independent surveyor to make a new map (Beastall, 1978). Apart from the area of development within the junction of Moortown Road and Holton Road ('Raisin Road' on the enclosure map), which in 1794 was uninhabited agricultural land, Nettleton in 1794 was very similar in size and shape to Nettleton at the present time. Few buildings are present on the north side of Church Street, but otherwise the density of population in the centre of the village and out along Normanby Road to the south-east is little changed. The area at the north-east end of the village, around Cooks Lane, is now more heavily populated than it was, but the boundary between the house plots and the fields beyond is identical, and can be superimposed precisely onto that shown on the modern OS 1:10,000 map. This pattern is repeated throughout the village, and extends to some of the nearer fields. On the extract shown (Fig. 4), the four large fields to the south-east of the village – the southern two belonging to 'The Rector for Tithe of Old Enclosures' and 'The Rector for Glebe Lands etc. Common Right', and the eastern two to 'Lord Eardley as Lord of the Manor' – are no longer recognisable, nor are the three most northerly enclosures on the east side of Caistor Road. All other boundaries shown are still visible today, although some of the larger enclosures have been sub-divided.

Glebe Farm can be seen on the enclosure map (outlined in red), and Glebe Farm House itself identified near the centre of the plot. Three smaller buildings front Church Road: no buildings are shown in the southern half of the property. The land abandoned in the 17th century is visible as a strip of narrow enclosures, running approximately N-S, to the south of Glebe Farm, and continuing in the larger enclosures on the north side of Moortown Road. The two fields directly south of Glebe Farm are shown as divided by a very narrow strip which extends across Nettleton Beck into the proposed development area: this is still visible as a hollow-way.

The 1907 Ordnance Survey map cannot be reproduced here, due to disruption caused by building work at the Lincolnshire Archives Office: information from it is shown in fig. 5. The level of development along Church Road was coming closer to its present state, although there were still fewer buildings on the north side. The range of large farm buildings on Glebe Farm, fronting on Church Road, is shown, but the south side of the site remained undeveloped.

7.2 The County Sites and Monuments Record

The records held by the SMR which have a potential bearing on the proposed development scheme (findspots, earthworks, buildings or known archaeological sites within approx. 1 km of the development site) are as follows:-

SMR Ref.	NGR	Description
50221	TA 104005	Findspot: Neolithic-Bronze Age flint scatter
51528	TF 10809940	Findspot: Neolithic-Bronze Age flint flakes
50192	TF 10999910	Findspot: Neolithic-Bronze Age flint scatter
50201	TF 108992	Findspot: Bronze Age pottery
50202	TF 10959941	Findspot: Late Bronze Age dagger
50218	TA 10040012	Findspot: Bronze Age flint scatter
50203	TF 10959941	Findspot: Iron Age potsherd
50545	TA 10450010	Cropmark: double-ditched enclosure, possible Roman camp (may also be medieval)
50217	TA 10450017	Romano-British cemetery (cremation)
54132	TA 11850015	Findspot: Roman pottery scatter
50587	TA 11270017	Single Anglo-Saxon burial (inhumation)
50220	TA 111006	Anglo-Saxon cemetery (inhumation)
54507	TF 118999	Findspot: Anglo-Saxon potsherd and brooch fragment
51566	TA 10260010	Cropmark: medieval field boundary
51557	TF 12169785	Earthwork: medieval lynchet
51568	TA 11800012	Earthwork: medieval lynchet
51553	TF 11949951	Earthwork: medieval lynchet
51554	TF 11099910	Earthworks: medieval ridge and furrow
51552	TF 11369954	Earthworks: medieval ridge and furrow
52700	TA 10700150	Earthworks: medieval ridge and furrow

51567	TA 10410029	Earthworks: medieval ridge and furrow
51571	TA 11240066	Earthworks: medieval ridge and furrow
51570	TA 11310049	Earthworks: medieval ridge and furrow
51569	TA 11420014	Earthworks: medieval ridge and furrow
54506	TF 118999	Findspot: medieval pottery scatter
54133	TA 11850085	Findspot: medieval pottery scatter
50215	TA 11110019	St. John the Baptist Church, Nettleton: Saxo-Norman tower with 15 th century belfry.
50222	TF 11609045	Location of Nettleton Grange
51572	TA 10200030	Earthworks: post-medieval enclosures around Manor Farm
52699	TA 10650090	Undated pit identified by geophysical survey
52632	TA 11160077	Rumoured findspot of undated silver bowl
52639	TA 10900035	Findspot: undated knife with silver wire decoration
50219	TA 10910037	Findspot: undated knife with silver wire decoration

The significant entries from this list are plotted in fig. 1: the buildings, undated entries and medieval pottery scatters have been omitted for clarity.

7.3 General considerations

In the light of the information collated from the above sources, it is possible to construct a generalised picture of the archaeological and historical background of the area of proposed development.

The area of Nettleton appears to have been more or less continuously inhabited from the Mesolithic period onwards. The Nettleton Top excavations indicated the presence of Stone Age and Bronze Age settlement in the area, although only individual finds of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age material have been recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development area. Considering Nettleton's proximity to an important Roman town, there is remarkably little evidence of Roman activity in this area, but the presence of the pottery kilns to the north of Nettleton, and of the cremation cemetery, indicates that some activities (significantly those carrying a hygiene or fire risk) did take place at a distance from the town. Post-Roman activity appears to be centred on the Anglo-Saxon settlement at Nettleton Top, outside the immediate area of the proposed development site, though the Anglo-Saxon burials found on the other side of Nettleton, on Caistor Road and Nettleton Road, may be connected to this settlement.

Nettleton in the early Middle Ages was a large and prosperous settlement, with an extensive field system, of which numerous remnants can still be seen as lynchetts and areas of ridge-and-furrow. Glebe Farm itself can be dated by its name to the establishment of Nettleton parish church, as *glebe land* was land granted to the church

by the landowner who paid for its construction: the priest would support himself by the revenue from this land. No structures other than the church itself remain from this period.

Nettleton declined in importance during the later Middle Ages, with all three of its subordinate settlements being abandoned, and agricultural activity being altered or curtailed. The earthworks visible within the farmyard of Glebe Farm probably date from this period. Nettleton village itself does not seem to have decreased in size until the late 17th century, when a natural disaster obliterated an area of housing, whose ruins and boundaries can still be seen as earthworks in the fields on the south side of the village, including those adjacent to the proposed development area. Since the enclosures of the late 18th century the plan of the village has altered very little, and many of the properties depicted on the enclosure map of 1794 are still visible today.

8.0 Site visit

A site visit was carried out on 8/3/02. Excluding the church and chapel, the other buildings in Church Street consist of houses of 19th-20th century date with some recent alteration, largely brick-built, some of stone with brick features. The site is an active farmyard, and the fields on its south side are well-established pasture, so there was no possibility of surface finds.

The present farmhouse was built in 1988, after the demolition of the irreparably derelict Glebe Farm House recorded by Pevsner. It stands in the centre of the farmyard, on slightly raised ground which must represent the platform of the previous building. The other buildings visible on the 1907 OS map (fig. 5) are all still present. Two small stone outbuildings on the west side of the farmhouse are now partially derelict. The C-shaped range of buildings on the north side of the site, fronting Church Street, is still in use. It comprises a single-storey, tile-roofed brick building running parallel to the road, with a group of largely brick-built sheds at the west end and a stone and brick barn at the east end: the central area is roofed with corrugated iron on wooden posts, and is in use as a cowshed. To the east of this range of buildings is the farm entrance: to the west is an open area used for exercising horses.

The south-east quarter of the site is occupied by two open-sided barns, one in use for storage of straw bales, the other for farm machinery (visible on aerial photograph, fig. 3). On the north side of the more northerly barn, the footings of the corner of a previous building can be seen as a narrow ridge in the ground, with some exposed stones, running north and west.

The south-west quarter of the site contains the lawn and orchard of the farmhouse, and is divided from the east side of the farmyard by a stone wall of uncertain date, possibly of re-used stone. The orchard area contains slight earthworks, including a raised area of ground which may represent a house platform: if so, the building was demolished before 1794, as it does not appear on the enclosure map. The south side of the farmyard borders Nettleton Beck, which is crossed by a bridge: to the north of the bridge is an exposed line of stone and brick rubble, which appears to represent the footings of a building, also not shown on the 1794 map.

The division between the two fields shown on the enclosure map as directly south of Glebe Farm can still be seen as a sunken hollow-way between two lines of hawthorn trees, running approximately N-S. It cannot be traced on the north side of Nettleton Beck, as the map shows it, but the stone wall running from the bridge to the farmhouse is on its line (figs. 3 and 5).

9.0 Impact to archaeological resources

The history of usage varies across the proposed development area. The present farmhouse, built in 1988, stands in the same position as the previous Glebe Farm House. The land to the north, between the farmhouse and Church Road, contained only small buildings at the end of the 18th century, but was developed later: the larger range of farm buildings now occupying it was present by the beginning of the 20th century, and archaeological remains in this area may have been disturbed by construction work. The stone and brick-built barn at the east end of this range is scheduled to be converted as part of the proposed development (fig. 6). The southern half of the property, between the farmhouse and Nettleton Beck, was still undeveloped at the time of the 1907 Ordnance Survey. It is now occupied by two open-sided barns on its eastern side, which are unlikely to have caused significant disturbance to underlying archaeological remains, as they consist only of roofs supported by posts. The western side of this area appears never to have been built on, and archaeological remains are visible on the ground surface as earthworks.

Further construction work is liable to cause extensive damage to archaeological remains, where/if these survive, particularly if it takes place in areas not previously developed, or where a previously existing structure had caused little disturbance below ground level.

10.0 Conclusions

There is a possibility of prehistoric remains in the proposed development area, but these are more likely to be single artefacts, rather than physical (ie earth-cut) archaeological remains: the potential for Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon remains is slightly higher, although there are no recorded resources in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Earthworks visible on the site probably indicate medieval activity, and it is highly probable that these remains extend across larger areas of the site as buried features.

Post-medieval remains are unlikely, as local boundaries have remained unchanged since enclosure.

11.0 Mitigation

Desk top analysis can only provide a general level of potential, and cannot normally be used to quantify archaeological resources in absolute terms (ie extent, date, significance etc). It is suggested, therefore, that some evaluation of the site may be desirable. This could take the form of a rapid survey of any extant earthworks, and a limited programme of trial excavation; designed to establish the significance of

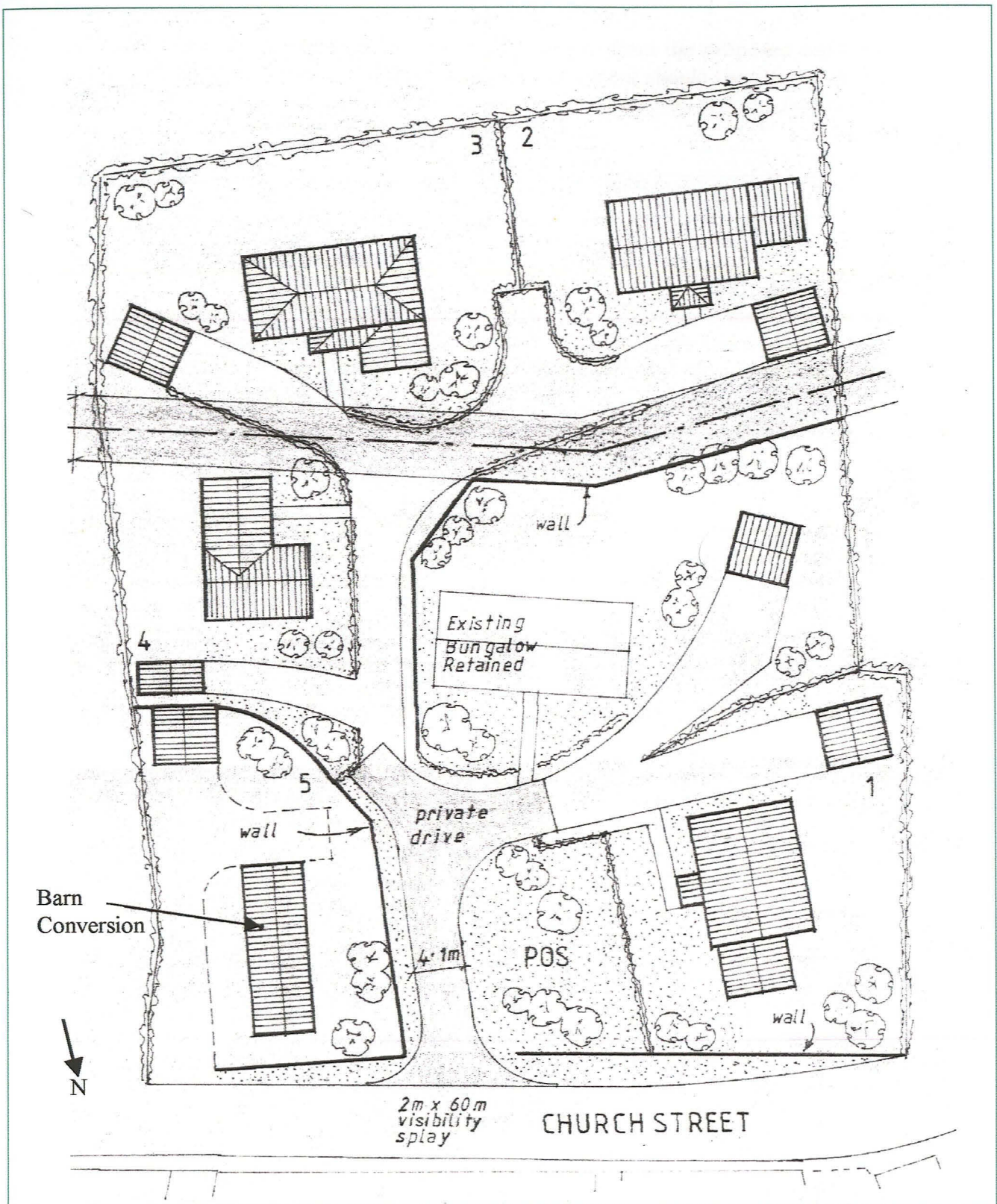


Fig. 6: Plan of proposed development. Scale 1:500.
 (Reproduced by kind permission of the landowner).

archaeological remains and the threat to such remains from the proposed residential development. By evaluating the archaeology in this way, it should then be possible to formulate a general mitigation strategy for the site that will seek to address the interests of the developer and the resource.

The site is not suitable for geophysical survey or fieldwalking.

12.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank J. H. G. Planning Consultancy for this commission. The authors would also like to thank the staff of the Lincolnshire County SMR and the Lincolnshire Archive Office for their assistance during the research, and Mr. G. T. Hair for his assistance during the site visit.

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